

## Notice of Public Scoping

### Grazing Permit Renewals and Land Health Assessments

Comment Period: Open until **October 31, 2006**

Contact:	Melissa Shawcroft		
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT		Phone:	(719)-274-8971
Field Office:	La Jara Field Office	E-MAIL:	Melissa_Shawcroft@co.blm.gov
Address:	15571 County Road T-5, La Jara, CO. 81140		

The La Jara Field Office (FO) is soliciting public comments on the following two topics: First, we would like assistance in prioritizing allotments for the assessment of public land health standards for Colorado. Secondly, we intend to renew 4 grazing permit/leases in 2006. We need to determine the level of public interest, concern, and resource conditions on each of the allotments up for assessment and renewal.

The assessment of public land health will be done on an allotment basis. During FY 2006 the La Jara Field Office will be completing land health assessment(s) in the following: Put in the Land area/allotment(s)/watershed where work will be completed in FY05.

Once the FO receives the public comments, the staff will meet as an interdisciplinary team. Using the public comments and all other available information provided, the FO Inter-Disciplinary Team will establish the priority list of the land areas that will be assessed for compliance with the health standards during the 2006 field season.

Following are the allotments and acreage identified in the FO that we are soliciting input regarding when the assessment will be initiated.

Name	Federal Acreage
Garambuyo	7698
La Jara Canyon	560

The FO will be also be completing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

analysis and making decisions on the renewal of certain grazing permits/leases. Since the level of NEPA analysis is in part driven by the level of public interest and concern, your comments are requested relative to conditions you have observed on these allotments, and/or specific environmental concerns about the lands and/or resources found within the specific allotment. The more specific and factual your information is, the more helpful and useful it will be.

An interdisciplinary team will rank the expiring permits into high and low priority categories based on public comments and all other information available. The ranking will help determine the amount of consideration necessary and the appropriate level of NEPA documentation for reaching a decision on each grazing permit renewal. The ranking will also help to allocate resources to address concerns on a priority basis.

The following BLM grazing permits/leases are scheduled for renewal in FY2006 on the following BLM grazing allotments in the La Jara Field Office.

<b>Allotment Name &amp; Number</b>	<b>Federal Acres</b>	<b>Permittee/Lessee</b>	<b>Land Area</b>
Garambuyo #14213	7698	Rudy Valdez	
La Jara Canyon #14217	560	Rudy Valdez	

If you have any information or concerns, wish to be considered as an interested party on a permit or allotment, or wish to be involved in a health of the land assessment, please contact the individual at the address above to be put on a mailing list. If you do have not specific comments at this time but have questions about the land areas or allotments listed in this notice, contact the individual at the address above.